

143

Ranger Report
145

December 10, 1918.

The Director,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to submit my report of conditions in the park for the month of November, 1918:

GENERAL STATEMENT.

The Yellowstone National Park was set aside by Act of Congress March 1, 1872, (Secs. 2474 and 2475, R. S., 17 Stat., 32) as a pleasuring-ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people, and placed under the exclusive control of the Secretary of the Interior, who was authorized to make such rules and regulations as he deems necessary for the care and maintenance of the park. It is situated principally in northwestern Wyoming, but laps over a little more than two miles into Montana on the North, and almost two miles into Montana and Idaho on the West. Its dimensions are about 62 miles North and South, and about 54 miles East and West, giving an area of about 3,348 square miles, or 2,142,720 acres. Its altitude is 8,000 to 11,000 feet.

The park was governed by civilian superintendents, assisted by a few scouts, from the time it was set aside until August 10, 1886, when, under authority contained in the Sundry Civil Bill, approved March 3, 1883, at the request of the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of War detailed troops of United States Cavalry to protect it, the commanding officer acting as park superintendent under the direct orders of the Secretary of the Interior. On October 16, 1916, by mutual agreements of the heads of the two departments, the troops were withdrawn from the park and a civilian superintendent, with a corps of 25 rangers for patrol and protection work, and a few civilian employees necessary for other duties, were designated by the Secretary

of the Interior to replace them. The Sundry Civil Bill, approved June 12, 1917, (Public No. 21, 65th Congress) contained a clause which made it necessary for the troops to be returned to the park for the purpose of patrolling it, and they returned on June 26, 1917, relieving the park superintendent of so much of the duties as pertained to "protection." The Sundry Civil Bill, approved July 1, 1918, again made provision for protection of the park by a force of civilian rangers, and this work was again taken over by a force of 25 rangers, at the close of the 1918 tourist season. The post of Fort Yellowstone was formally abandoned for the second time at the end of October, 1918.

The Act of Congress which appropriated funds for protection of the park also placed the appropriations for maintenance and improvement under the Secretary of the Interior, instead of under the Secretary of War, as heretofore, and permitted the reorganization of the work under this office, and combining it with the administration and protection work.

The local office of the U. S. Weather Bureau, Department of Agriculture, is in charge of Mr. G. E. Lawton, Observer. Temperature and precipitation records are also made by the rangers at several of the stations, for the Weather Bureau.

The U. S. Department of Justice is represented by a United States Commissioner, who is authorized to try all violators of Park laws and regulations.

Park Headquarters for all departments and most of the concessioners, is located at Mammoth Hot Springs. A telephone system connects Headquarters with sub-stations. A hydro-electric power plant furnished the light for the buildings and grounds at Headquarters. Water, electric current, and telephone service are furnished other departments of the Government in the park by the National Park Service, without charge. During November the hydro-electric power plant was run daily from 4.00 p. m. until 12.00 noon.

CONDITIONS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER.

The mean temperature was 26.7, which was 2.6 below normal. 5.9 inches of snow fell during the month, - total precipitation 0.66 inches of water, which is less than one-half the normal amount. Copy of Monthly Meteorological Report is inclosed herewith.

EMPLOYEES.

The following-named regular employees were carried on the pay roll during the month of November:

- 1 Chief Clerk (Acting Superintendent)
- 1 Purchasing Clerk
- 4 Clerks
- 1 Clerk-stenographer
- 1 Civil Engineer
- 1 Electrician
- 1 Storekeeper
- 3 Foremen
- 1 Foreman to and including the 18th.
- 1 Foreman to and including the 21st.
- 4 Assistant Chief Rangers
- 12 Park Rangers : *6 First Cl. Park Rangers*
- 1 Park Ranger 21st to 30th
- 1 Park Ranger 25th to 30th
- 1 Buffalo Keeper including 15th
- 2 Linemen
- 1 Laborer
- 1 Plumber
- 2 Telephone Switchboard Operators
- 1 Overseer
- 1 Handyman

Distribution: Assistant Chief Ranger James McBride (Acting Chief Ranger) was stationed at Headquarters and made trips of inspection to various stations throughout the park during the month. He also assisted at the buffalo farm, vaccinating the buffalo calves.

Assistant Chief Ranger Charles J. Smith was stationed at Headquarters in the Chief Ranger's office and made several patrols by motorcycle and truck to the buffalo farm and Tower Falls.

Assistant Chief Ranger James P. Brooks, in charge of the southern division, made general patrols with rangers at Snake River, Bechler, and Lake Stations, and looked after making caches of rations for use during the winter season when patrols have to be made on snowshoes or skis.

Assistant Chief Ranger Harry Trischman made patrols from Headquarters, and also made two trips to the buffalo farm during the month to assist in vaccinating and castrating the buffalo calves.

First-class Park Ranger E. C. Lacombe was in charge of Tower Falls Station, from which station he made frequent patrols to the north line of Slough Creek and Buffalo Fork. He also assisted handling the buffalo calves during their vaccinating, and after the death of Buffalo Keeper Frazier, on November 15, he was placed in charge at the buffalo farm until he contracted the influenza and was forced to take a leave of absence from November 25 to December 5.

Park Ranger George Winn was stationed during the entire month at Tower Falls Station. He spent much of his time patrolling the north line, several miles away.

First-class Park Ranger Peter Lawson was in charge of Gallatin Station district throughout the month, and did much extra patrolling on the park line on account of the presence of hunters the other side of the line in Montana.

Park Ranger Roy T. Frazier was stationed at Gallatin with Lawson until November 4, when he was relieved there by Ranger Douglas and sent to the buffalo farm to assist in vaccinating the buffalo calves. He also contracted influenza and was on sick report from November 21 to November 28. Since his recovery he has been stationed at Grevice Station.

First-class Park Ranger Roby Roy Wisdom was in charge of Lake Station, and patrolled that district as well as Canyon, Thumb, and Sylvan Pass.

Park Ranger Laurence Mazzanovich was also stationed at the Lake Station.

The rangers at Lake Station placed caches of rations for winter use during the month of November, and also made further efforts to locate their saddle and pack animals, which were lost on October 22, but these have not been found.

First-class Park Ranger Thad C. Pound was in charge of Gardiner Station throughout the month. He was assisted there since November 22 by Ranger McLaughlin, who has been previously stationed at Soda Butte Station.

First-class Park Ranger Henry Anderson was in charge of Soda Butte Station. He patrolled a total of 350 miles on horseback during the month. He reports that he has seen 2400 elk, 39 sheep; all in good condition. Also that there is plenty of grass for them and very little snow. He killed 16 coyotes during the month.

Park Ranger A. L. McLaughlin was stationed at Soda Butte Station with Anderson to include November 22, when he was relieved and assigned to Gardiner Station. He reports that he rode 370 miles during the 22 days at Soda Butte.

Park Ranger William S. Howard was stationed at Soda Butte Station beginning November 21.

First-class Park Ranger Court B. Dewing was in charge of Grevice Station from November 1 to November 15. Since November 16 he has been stationed at Gardiner and made a specialty in trapping coyotes between Sepulcher Mountain and Mount Evans. He caught 7 coyotes during the month. He reports having seen about 600 elk, 200 antelope, and 14 mountain sheep.

Park Ranger James N. Dupuis was stationed at Grevice Station, and has been in charge of that station since Dewing was relieved, on November 16.

Quite a number of hunters were reported outside the park in this locality, and men on this station had much extra patrolling during the open hunting season.

Park Ranger E. F. Cushman was stationed at Norris, where he made patrols towards Yellowstone and Canyon, and made some repairs to the telephone line. He patrolled 480 miles on motorcycle.

Park Ranger J. W. Eline was in charge of Snake River Station, at the southern entrance, and made patrols east and west along the park line from that station.

Park Ranger William N. Furdue has been stationed with Ranger Eline at Snake River Station since November 25.

Park Ranger Ford Purdy was in charge of Riverside Station, at the western entrance. Daily patrols were made from this station along the park line both north and south

from the town of Yellowstone. He reports but few hunters in that locality, and that they have had but little success in killing elk.

Park Ranger F. J. Townsend assisted Ranger Purdy at Riverside Station

Park Ranger Frank J. Winess was in charge of Bechler Station in the southwest corner of the park. Regular patrols were made north on the west line and east on the south line during the month.

Park Ranger James Russell was also stationed at Bechler Station.

Steve Elkins was employed as a hunter with trained dogs since November 11, for the special purpose of exterminating mountain lions. Most of his work was done on Hellroaring and Mount Evarts. He succeeded in killing one mountain lion up to November 30th.

Buffalo Keeper Frazier was busy the fore part of the month, caring for the buffalo herd and preparing for the vaccination of the calves. He was assisted by two laborers. He was taken ill with the influenza and died on the evening of November 15.

Other permanent employees were on duty at Headquarters, maintaining office and storehouse, shops, telephone lines, power plant, buildings, water and sewer systems, etc., and others were engaged in improvement work under Civil Engineer Goodwin.

During the month employees of this office purchased War Savings Stamps to the amount of \$75.96. There was also \$474.58 subscribed to the United War Work fund during the campaign by employees and other park residents.

Leaves of absence: Following leaves of absence were granted during the month of November:

Buffalo Keeper Thomas G. Frazier, 12th to 15th, 4 days, account of sickness.

First-class Park Ranger B. C. Lacombe, 25th to 30th, 6 days, account of sickness.

Park Ranger R. T. Frazier, 21st to 28th, 8 days, account of sickness.

Appointments: The following appointments were made during the month of November:

William S. Howard, park ranger, \$100 per month, November 21, 1918.

William N. Purdue, park ranger, \$1200 per annum, November 25, 1918.

Vacancies: The following vacancies existed at the close of November:

- 1 Chief Park Ranger; 5 Park Rangers.
- 1 Assistant Electrician at \$1200 per annum.
- 1 Buffalo Keeper at \$1200 per annum.
- 1 Assistant Buffalo Keeper at \$900 per annum.

ANIMALS, DOMESTIC.

Arrangements were made at Yancey's, near Tower Falls Station, for wintering surplus domestic animals, (horses and mules.)

GRAZING.

Scarcely any snow had fallen up to the end of November, and the grazing conditions for wild animals throughout the park was of the best.

FIRES.

No forest fires occurred during the month.

Fish.

Fishing was excellent during the month of November, especially in the Madison and Gardiner Rivers.

MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT.

No improvements of any consequence were made by park concessioners.

The oat crop, which was harvested on the field at Gardiner, was threshed and showed an excellent yield. 1,636 bushels were threshed, hauled to Headquarters, and stored for future use. They were excellent quality, averaging 38 pounds to the bushel. Of the straw 13 tons were baled for our needs for bedding for animals for the year. This was also hauled to Headquarters and stored. 71 tons of timothy clover and alfalfa hay ~~were~~ purchased from the ranchers in the vicinity of Gardiner; was baled and hauled to Headquarters for feeding horses.

The work of remodeling the two sets of officers' quarters into four flats was continued but not finished. Similar work was begun on building No. 2, formerly used as an office by the Superintendent, with a view to remodeling it into a set of quarters for a family.

The two regular linemen completed the installation of the new switchboard in the north end of the bachelor quarters. They also did heavy repair work on the line between Morris and Upper Basin, and to Riverside Station, resetting 46 new poles; and on the Tower Falls line resetting 33 poles. A team and some extra labor were required to assist them in this line work.

The old reservoir at Headquarters was drained and the mud and algae removed with scrapers, then refilled with water so that clear ice could be procured later for filling the ice-house.

The metal signs, contracted for last year, were received from the contractor, checked and stored, to be installed next season.

Regular employees were organized at Headquarters for fighting fire should it occur in any of the buildings, as per copy of circular inclosed herewith.

Improvement work on roads, bridges, etc., was accomplished under the direction of Civil Engineer George E. Goodwin, as follows:

The principal work accomplished during the month consisted of a small amount of road maintenance and improve-

ment in the park and in the south and east forest reserves, including repairing of the Snake River bridge and the revetment work along the north fork of the Shoshone River. On the 12th of the month work was started by the contractor on the road around the Gardiner Slide. Repairs and alterations were made to some of the living quarters at Mammoth Hot Springs and the usual incidental work, such as repairing equipment, maintaining buildings, grounds, etc., was carried on.

North Entrance Road:

Throughout the month a small crew, averaging about 6 or 8 men, was employed in making a channel change in the Gardiner River, to prevent the road from probable damage by future freshets. Some rocks and boulders were hauled in and dumped in several places where the road had washed, to form a revetment against future high waters.

About the first of the month Gibbons & Reed, contractors for the road around the Gardiner Slide, commenced to get in their supplies and equipment and started their camp work incidental to the construction work. On the 12th of the month they actually commenced grading under their contract, and from then until the end of the month they excavated 3,002 cubic yards of class 1 excavation (earth) and 205 cubic yards of class 2 excavation (rock) and did a certain amount of force account work in clearing the right-of-way, amounting to \$42.15. The contractors' force at the beginning of the month consisted of only two or three men, but this was increased, and at the end of the month had a force of about 35 or 40 men and 7 or eight teams and one steam shovel working. The work performed consisted of roughing out about 800 or 900 feet of the lighter easier portion of the road at stations 11 + 50 to 13 + 00; 25 + 30 to 32 + 60, and from 40 + 50 to 42 + 00. Some preliminary work was done incidental to starting work on the concrete revetment wall.

No work was done on either the West, South, or East entrance roads in the park.

Mammoth Hot Springs to Norris Road:

A crew of about 21 men and 13 teams worked on

graveling on the 15th mile, accomplishing about 500 feet during the month. Graveling operations were suspended on the 5th of the month because of the ground freezing so hard.

No work was done during the month on the road from Norris to Madison Junction, nor from Madison Junction to Old Faithful, or from Thumb to Lake, to Canyon, to Tower Falls, to Mammoth Hot Springs, or on the Canyon to Norris road.

In the south forest reserve a small crew of from 4 to 6 men and 2 teams were employed from the 1st to the 16th of the month in graveling the road in the vicinity of Moran, about 1,000 feet being gravelled during the month. This completes the gravelling from the junction at the store through to Sheffields, and certain stretches between the junction at the store and one-half mile north were gravelled. Most of the cross-drainage structures on this section were completed and some of the brush corduroy were repaired. On account of the extreme cold weather and snow work was suspended on the 16th.

A small crew consisting of about 6 men were employed throughout the month on repairs to the Snake River bridge. A pile foundation was driven for the abutment of the north end of the bridge, and the old abutment, which had subsided, was incorporated in a larger abutment, which was brought to the correct level, and the bridge, which had previously been jacked up, was lowered to place. This concreting was completed on the last of the month, except for a short section of concrete flooring, which, owing to the extreme cold weather, could not be properly protected, and will have to be placed next spring. The opening in the deck of the bridge is covered with planking and the structure is open to travel.

Road in the east forest reserve:

One crew of about 20 men and 6 teams were employed throughout the month on rock fill log crib revetment to protect the road along the north fork of the Shoshone River. At the end of the month the revetment work was completed with the exception of one wing dam, which should be finished about the 10th or 15th of December, when the crew will be disbanded. The second small crew of about 4 men and 2 teams was employed from the 1st to the 10th of the month on revetment work in the same locality.

Engineering Work.

During the month a preliminary survey was made for a change in the Tower Falls-Cooke City road so as to permit the utilization of a new bridge site at which point it is probable the two bridges, which will be reclaimed by the change in the road through the Gardiner Canyon, will be used for crossing the Lamar River in place of the present unsatisfactory temporary bridge, which was built by Mr. McKay last spring. An estimate will be made for this road change a little later, and probably specifications and proposals gotten out for the moving and erection of the bridge by contract.

MONIES TRANSMITTED.

Report of monies collected, transmitted, due, etc., is inclosed on the regular blank form. Please acknowledge receipt.

NATURAL PHENOMENA.

No changes were recorded during the month.

TRAVEL CONDITIONS.

But few people registered at the park entrances during the month of November, as will be noted by the inclosed Chief Ranger's travel report for the month. But little snow fell during the month, and the roads on the west side, to Upper Basin and Yellowstone, also to Soda Butte on the Cooke City road, are still open for motor transportation. Heavy trucks went to Snake River Station via Canyon, Lake, and Thumb, as late as November 10th, and the road was open to the south entrance for teams to the end of November.

VISITORS.

Special visitors were recorded as follows:

Messrs. Gibbons & Reed, of Salt Lake City, arrived via the western entrance on November 8th, and began making preparations for rebuilding the road in Gardiner Canyon, under their contract with the National Park Service.

Doctor F. C. Swaney, Veterinarian, Bureau of Animal Industry, was in the park November 6th to 10th, and from November 18th to 22d, for the purpose of vaccinating the calves in the tame buffalo herd.

Doctor H. H. Cushman, Veterinarian in Charge of the Bismarck office, Bureau of Animal Industry, visited the park November 14th to 15th.

Doctor H. E. Curry, of the United States Public Health Service, came in on November 12th and went to the buffalo farm where he remained until the 15th, attending Buffalo Keeper Frazier, who was ill with Spanish Influenza and complications. Doctor Curry is employed by the Public Health Service and detailed to the State of Montana, for the special work of assisting in combatting the influenza, and arrangements for his services were made through the State Board of Health of Montana.

COMPLAINTS.

No complaints were received during the month.

WILD ANIMALS.

The grazing and weather conditions for wild animals in the park were ideal. In this connection, I quote monthly report of First-class Park Ranger Henry Anderson, who was stationed at Soda Butte, in the heart of the elk range at this time of the year:

"Pasture is splendid; plenty of grass and very little snow. General condition of game is better than I have seen for years. No weak or crippled game of any kind. Have not found any dead since I ran the wolves out of the district last month."

Other reports received are similar in this respect. Parties hunting near the park line have had but little success thus far, and the hunting season will be over at the end of the 15th of December.

Bears: No bears were in evidence, as they are all in winter quarters.

Wolves and coyotes: No wolves were killed during

the month, though they were considerably in evidence on Slough Creek and Hellroaring. Twenty-nine coyotes were killed during the month by rangers and others, which makes a total of 65 killed during the past three months.

Mountain lions: Steve Elkins, who was employed as a hunter with his pack of trained dogs, succeeded in killing one mountain lion during the month.

Buffalo: The tame buffalo herd was in excellent condition. The 1918 crop of calves was vaccinated for hemorrhagic septicemia by Doctor F. C. Swaney, of the Bureau of Animal Industry, on November 10th, and the second vaccination was given on November 20th and 21st, when 60 per cent of the male calves (16 in number) were castrated. Total number of calves vaccinated, 26 bulls and 37 females. Sixteen of the bulls were castrated. Assistance in this work was given by Rangers McBride, Lacombe, Trischman, Anderson, and Roy T. Frazier.

PROTECTION AND CARE OF GAME.

No report of poaching was received during the month. The park lines were well covered at frequent intervals, at all points where any danger from poaching existed.

During November, Acting Chief Ranger McBride met Mr. Ernest Shaw, Supervisor of the Absaroka National Forest, in Gardiner, and explained to him the natural drift of elk from summer to winter range in and adjoining the park. This data Mr. Shaw desired for use in preparing a map for his District Office, in connection with the Forest Service plan for future handling of the elk situation near the park. He has promised to furnish me with a copy of this map when it is completed.

Eleven snowshoe cabins were put in shape for winter use, and supplies left in them for snowshoe parties.

SANITATION AND DISEASE.

No sanitary work was attempted during the month, except the usual amount of policing the grounds at Headquarters.

Several cases of Spanish Influenza were reported in

the park during the month, some of them quite serious. The most serious cases were taken to Chico Hot Springs, Montana, for medical and hospital attention, except Buffalo Keeper Frazier, who had special medical attention until he died, at the Buffalo Farm.

ACCIDENTS, DEATHS, ETC.

One death occurred, that of Buffalo Keeper Thomas G. Frazier, at the Buffalo Farm on November 15th, which was made the subject of a special report.

The only accident reported was that to a carpenter employed by this office, who went to Gardiner on the evening of November 6th, got drunk, and returning home on foot he fell and broke his leg, or injured it so badly that he could not work, but went to Livingston for medical attention. He was discharged.

ARRESTS AND VIOLATIONS OF THE LAW.

No arrests were made, and no violations of the law were reported.

PROPOSED WORK FOR DECEMBER.

Continued work of construction and repair of improvements under Civil Engineer Goodwin, to such an extent as may be practicable in winter.

Completion of locational and pictorial index of the park.

Continued special patrols along park lines during the hunting season, and making special arrangements for winter care of the wild animals.

Maintenance and repair of buildings, water and sewer system, power plant, and telephone lines. Remodeling dwellings to accommodate more families, and remodeling one of the stone stables for use as a machine shop and garage.

Very respectfully,

CHESTER A LINDSLEY

Acting Superintendent.

Inclosures:

U. S. Departure Of Agriculture
Weather Bureau.

Weather Conditions-----Mammoth Hot Springs.

November, 1918.

Temperature: Monthly mean 26.7° . Departure, -2.6° .
The lowest for the month was -5° on the 23d
The lowest recorded during the period of 32
years was -27° in 1896.

Precipitation: Total, 0.66 inch. Departure, -0.78 inch.
This total has been exceeded 21 times during
the period of 30 years.

Snowfall: Total, 5.9 inches. Departure, -5.3 inches.
This total has been exceeded 16 times during
the 30 years of record.

Wind: The total for the month was near the normal,
with a maximum velocity of 30 miles per hour
from the south, on the 10th.

Sunshine: Percentage of possible, 41 which slightly
below the normal.

G. E. Lawton,
Observer.

Yellowstone Park, Wyo.
December 4, 1918.

November 1918

erson, Henry	✓	at	Soda Butte District.
ks, Jas. P.	✓	"	Bechler, Snake R. and Lake.
man, E. F.	✓	"	Norris District
ng, Court B.	✓	"	Corvise ^{moved to Gardiner} district on the 20 th about.
glase, Joseph	- ✓	"	Gallatin District
ir, Jas. N.	✓	"	Corvise District
ne, J. W.	✓	"	Snake River District
nd, William S.	✓	"	Soda Butte District ^(21st to end of month)
ins, Stephen	- ✓	"	Hellroaring District ^(11th to end of month)
lbe, B. C.	- ✓	"	Tower Falls + Sick Leave
zier, Roy F.	✓	"	Gallatin, Buffalo Farm + Sick Leave
son, Peter G.	- ✓	"	Gallatin District
Bride, Jas.	- ✓	"	Head quarters ^{Tracy to Buffalo to one calling & changed to strong after out office}
Laughlin, A. L.	✓	"	Soda Butte + Gardiner ^{changed about 20th}
anovich, Laurence	✓	"	Lake District
d, Thad C.	- ✓	"	Gardiner Station
dy, Ford	✓	"	Riverside District
ue, William N.	✓	"	Snake River District ^(25th started)
and, Fred J.	✓	"	Riverside District
th, Chas. J.	✓	"	Head quarters
chman, Harry	- ✓	"	Head quarters ^{Tracy to Buffalo}
er, Frank J.	✓	"	Bechler River District

m, George ✓ at Tower Falls District
dom, Roby Roy ✓ .. Lake District